

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
INR-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 /073 W
-----003398 271226Z /15

R 270835Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3459
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 4789

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, ASEAN, E
SUBJECT: REGIONAL ASSISTANCE TO ASEAN

REF: STATE 069052

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF MARCH 27, JOSE FERNANDEZ WHO IS MRS. MANALO'S DEPUTY IN DFA ASEAN NATIONAL SECRETARIAT MENTIONED THAT THE PHILIPPINE PANEL WAS GETTING TOGETHER THIS AND NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS PHILIPPINE PROPOSALS FOR PRESENTATION TO THEIR ASEAN COUNTERPARTS. THE ASEAN COUNTRIES ARE TO ORGANIZE THEIR WORKING GROUP IN MIDDLE OF APRIL WITH EXPECTATION THAT THEY CAN MEET WITH THE U.S. TEAM OF EXPERTS EARLY MAY IN A JOINT WORKING GROUP TO WORK OUT A MUTUALLY AGREED PROGRAM OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION SERVING ASEAN AS A REGION.

2. EMBOFF EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ASEAN WOULD APPROACH DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION REALISTICALLY AND WITHOUT UNDUE EXPECTATIONS. FERNANDEZ SAID THAT GOP OFFICIALS HAVE NOT EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT FUNDS AT ALL, AS THEIR CONFIDENTIAL

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PRIMARY OBJECTIVE NOW IS PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND DEFINITION FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES.

3. SENSING THAT THE USG MAY BE APPREHENSIVE OF AN ASEAN DEMAND SIMILAR TO THAT LEVIED ON JAPAN, FERNANDEZ EXPLICITLY RULED OUT SUCH A POSSIBILITY. HE STRESSED THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD REACH AGREEMENT ON PROJECTS,

FROM WHERE THEY COULD DECIDE ON NECESSARY RESOURCES. WHILE INSISTING THAT ASEAN WAS REALISTIC, HE HOPED THAT THE USG WOULD DO SOMEWHAT BETTER THAN AUSTRALIA (A\$2.8 MILLION OUT OF A\$5 MILLION PROMISED IN 1974) AND CANADA (C\$1 MILLION PER YEAR 1977-1982).

4. COMMENT: AT LEAST THE PHILIPPINES SEEMS TO BE THINK-
ING ALONG OUR LINES.

NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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